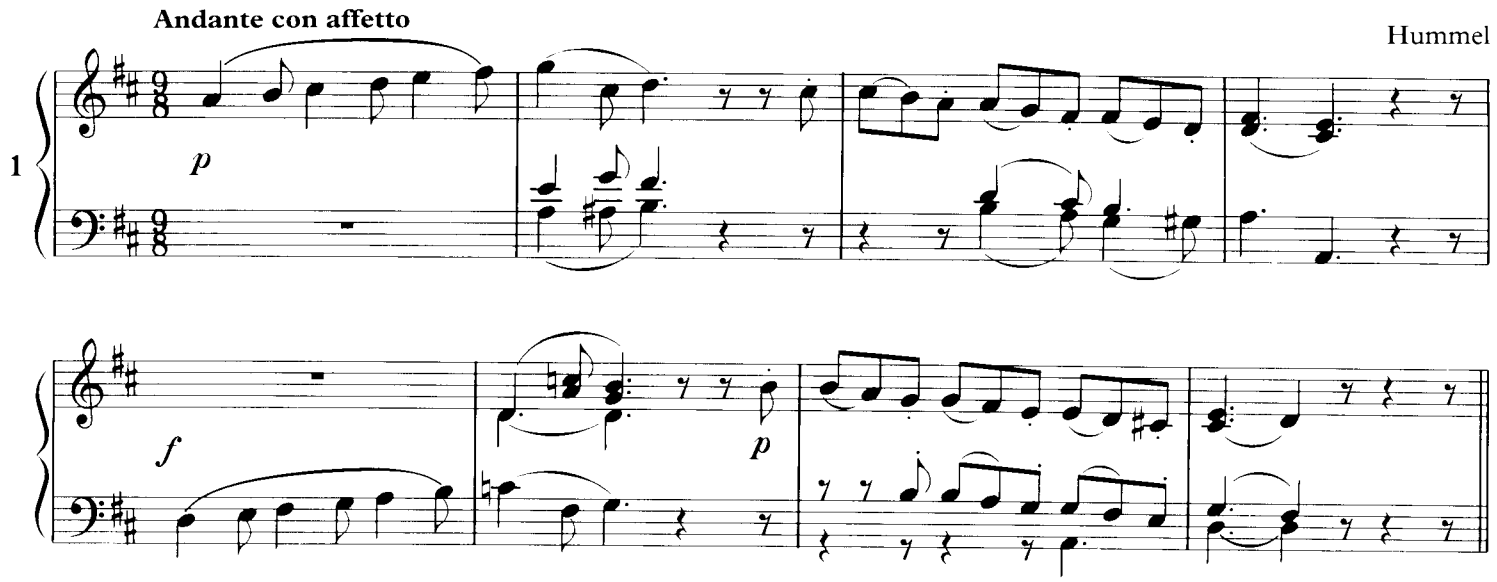
VISIT…

Test 3A: Responding to the pulse of the music **GRADE 3**

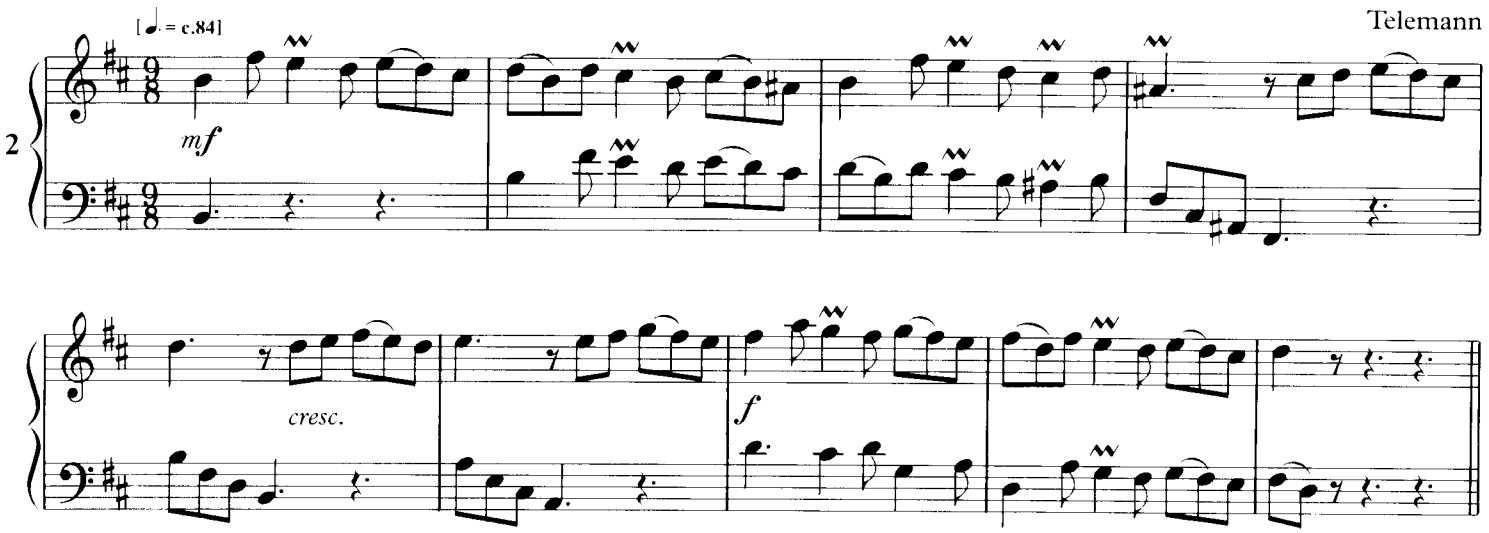
'To tap the pulse of a passage of music in 2 (including $\frac{6}{8}$), 3 (including $\frac{9}{8}$) or 4 time played by the examiner. The examiner will commence playing the passage, and the candidate will be expected to join in as soon as possible by tapping the beat, stressing where the strong beat falls. The candidate will then be asked to state the time.'

In Grade 2 compound duple time ($\frac{6}{8}$) was introduced, and it was pointed out there that only the main beats, i.e. in $\frac{6}{8}$ time, the dotted crotchet (quarter note) beats, should be tapped. The same applies in compound triple time ($\frac{9}{8}$).

In some pieces in $\frac{9}{8}$ time, there will be a slow quaver (eighth note) pulse underlying the music. For the purpose of preparing for this test, such pieces should be avoided. For example:



Here pupils might well tap the underlying quaver (eighth note) pulse. The next example has a much clearer dotted crotchet (quarter note) pulse.



The purpose of this exercise is to develop a keen rhythmic sense. Choose pieces carefully to build up pupils' confidence.